

PRAISE FOR PLAY PIONEERS!



VOLUNTEERS at BLAP have received their first Take 5 Play certificates, and can now go on to study for their level 2 qualification. The volunteers are the first to achieve this level since BLAP reopened. Sue Price (pictured second from left) said: "This is fantastic for BLAP and a major achievement for the volunteers. This is a huge step forward towards paid employment."

COMMUNITY MARKET TO LAUNCH

AS Leys News went to press yesterday afternoon it was announced that after months of planning and a grant of £15,000, The Leys Community Market will launch on 15 December at The Barn.

The project is being funded by community partners as part of the local area regeneration, and will mean a local person can be employed

to help run the market.

Committee member Christine McDermott said: "We have been awarded the funding and now it really is all systems go for this exciting community project. The market will have different stalls selling a variety of homemade produce and there will also be activities for children and a café. A Town

Crier will be on hand to spread the word across the estate."

Volunteers are still needed and a recruitment event is planned. For more information email leyscommunitymarket@yahoo.com or find Leys Community Market on Facebook.

■ The market will be open from 11am–2pm.

Residents urged to make their voices heard

BY LAURA BROADBENT

PLANS for a major multi-million pound regeneration project across the Leys have been met with mixed reactions from local people.

The first in a series of three-day drop in workshop sessions was held in Blackbird Leys for residents to share ideas about the project and over the next year, Oxford City Council and the Prince's Foundation charity will produce a

plan for the area.

The three-day workshops were attended by city and parish councillors, groups from the estate's community centre and church of Holy Family.

Ben Bolgar, the Senior Development Director of the Prince's Foundation, said: "There is tremendous opportunity in Blackbird Leys for real change to benefit people."

Oxford City Council brought in specialist help to ask the

residents their views on the estate, including transport, housing and green spaces.

The initial ideas include an overhaul of parking for the estate, a better bus service and opening up entrances to Greater Leys for better access.

Other ideas include better walking connections throughout the estate, a re-development of the greyhound stadium and a leisurely walk and cycle route to the town centre.

Sarah Leach, press and marketing manager for Oxford City Council, said: "We aim to make small improvements to the area led by local residents."

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production
latest
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celebrations:
Time for
some scary,
fiery fun!
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Leys News

Issue 101

November 2012

Leys News is a not-for-profit business dedicated to providing news and information to the whole community. We are not affiliated to any political party, and we operate an equal opportunities policy. We encourage any resident to get involved in our work.

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Residents urged to make their voices heard...

Continued from front page

...A significant amount of money will be put aside, including £2million to refurbish the Windrush and Evenlode towers and funding will be allocated on a project-by-project basis.

Mr Bolgar, added: "We need to engage the local people, start to get everyone thinking strategically and interest people."

Brian Lester, Vice Chairman of Blackbird Leys Parish council is not convinced by the plans. He said: "What does regeneration mean to most people? We have had a lot of surveys and plans over many years. I have lived on this estate for 52 years, and have seen too many surveys take place with no result happening from them, only the consultants

getting richer so I am extremely sceptical at these new consultations that are taking place."

He added: "I would hope that as many residents who live here will take this opportunity to go to these open sessions and tell the Prince's Foundation what they want to see. It will be no good afterwards saying this or that about whether you are for or against. I see regeneration as something that will enhance our estate."

"We need new shop fronts, more street parking bays, anti-parking measures on our green spaces and better bus services for the outer areas like Greater Leys and Falcon Close and Kestrel Crescent. I am verging between

optimism and pessimism. I would like to see it succeed but it needs to be the redevelopment of the whole area."

"The tower blocks need to be consistently upgraded and where you have got places like the shops, where they are old, something needs to be done there."

Mr Lester added that refurbishment of the top shops has to be a priority. He said: "We have got what I would call a mish-mash at the shops up here. We haven't got the facilities. I believe they have got to start with the shop areas first—sort that out and make it nice and that would be a start. But we have heard these things before."

CORRECTION IN LAST month's Leys News we featured a story about volunteering at Oxfordshire MIND. The article was written by Shuvasree Maitra about her experiences of working at the charity and NOT by volunteer manager Ania Scigala. We apologise for this error.

Festive Shopping Supplement

WE are officially hurtling towards the festive season and next month's Leys News will be our combined Christmas and New Year issue.

As well as a comprehensive gift guide, ideas for entertaining and the very best in party fashion and beauty, we will be producing a Christmas shopping supplement.

We are delighted to be able to offer all local businesses a very SPECIAL advertising deal for the festive period, to find out more and book your advertising space now contact John Charlton on 01865 711756

Your business can benefit from a simple cost effective box advert or something more detailed such as an advertising feature. Whatever your requirements- we are here to help to promote your business this Christmas and make sure our readers know about the great deals and offers that you have available.

So don't delay! Contact us now on 01865 711756

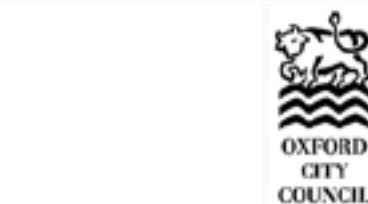


The Prince's Foundation for Building Community is working with Oxford City Council on a range of public events to help the local community get involved with the regeneration of the Leys.

The Prince's Foundation teaches and demonstrates sustainable development placing community engagement at the heart of their work. They're working with everyone from local residents' groups to governments to make it happen.

Representatives of The Prince's Foundation met with residents and stakeholders at the Leys in September and October, finding out about their concerns and hopes for the area. From these events, the Foundation produced initial design proposals to improve various aspects of the area including the central area around the top shops and Minchery Farm.

The next visit to the area is between the 4-7th December 2012.



ART COMPETITION WINNERS



THE Two lucky winners of last month's Leys News Children's Art Competition were five-year-old Richie Harris (entry below), and Daniela Lima-Quintal aged ten (entry above). They both win a fabulous art set to keep them busy!



LEYS NEWS READER SURVEY

WE had a very positive response to our reader survey, with everyone commenting that Leys News is a good read that reflects the positive things going on across the estate.

Comments included:

"It's great to hear the positive things that people are doing here. It strengthens our sense of community."

"It's a paper for the community. It is the voice of the Leys echoing the vibrancy and diversity that is such a feature of life here."

"Due to disability I no longer work. I used the read The Guardian but I can't afford it now so the Leys News is a good read."

"I often cut out and keep interesting articles."

"Read it! It's informative and absorb-

ing and you will learn a lot from it!"

"It has a good balance, I like to know what's going on in my neighbourhood."

The Leys News team would like to thank everyone who took the time to take part in our survey. All comments have been noted and will be used to make improvements to your community newspaper.

WINNERS!

WE are delighted to announce the winners of our 2012 Reader Survey sponsored by Wilkinson's. D Trenchard, Maria Fernandes, Mrs P Davidson and Rae Staples all win £25 shopping vouchers.

Thank you for taking part in our survey.

Leys CDI AGM

CELEBRATING A YEAR OF SUCCESS

THE Leys CDI had another fantastic and successful year of providing high quality activities and opportunities for young people and over 50s on the Leys.

The organisation has provided more safe, accessible and enjoyable activities than ever before and more users and new volunteers have joined. The Leys CDI is also lead panel partner for the new Community First Funding enabling other small groups on the Leys to access funding over the next three years.

■ The CDI's AGM will take place on Wednesday, 21 November from 6.00–8.00pm at The Glow Hall, Blackbird Leys Community Centre

Volunteers get their hands dirty

VOLUNTEERS joined a litter pick on Grenoble Road, Oxford, followed by a guided walk along Oxfordshire's Roman Way

More than 35 volunteers heeded the call from environmental charity the Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE Oxfordshire) to get their hands dirty and help pick litter from along Oxford's Grenoble Road.

After just an hour, along one short stretch of road, the volunteers had collected dozens of bags of rubbish. One teenage litter picker focused specifically on collecting drinks cans. He gathered a hefty sackful. He said: "These are all recyclable. Why do people chuck this stuff away?"

Helen Marshall, director of CPRE Oxfordshire, found a toaster dumped in the hedgerow. She said: "Most people do the right thing and dispose of their rubbish properly. It's not difficult. That so many people wanted to come out and help clean up is really encouraging. We just have to get the message across to the litter-droppers and fly-tippers to stop."

After cleaning up, the volunteers set off for a guided walk along Oxfordshire's Roman Way through the Oxford Green Belt to the beautiful and ancient village of Marsh Baldon.

The event was made possible thanks to the David Harding Foundation.



COME AND JOIN JOSEPH!



A scene is acted out by cast members: Javad Gohari, Gabbi Smith and others.

THE community production of Joseph is well under way and people continue to join in the fun at the regular workshop sessions on Thursday evenings. Residents have been learning the songs, playing drama games and learning new techniques as they get to grips with the musical.

Trevor Davies the musical director has been encouraging those who are taking part to learn new skills and to work together as a cast for this exciting and fun community production.

There is still a chance for people to get involved either as cast members or in supporting the production in other ways

such as scenery and costume making.

If you fancy the chance to come on board contact Sasha East or come along to Church of the Holy Family (Blackbird Leys Road entrance) 6.30pm on a Thursday evening.

There will also be a showing of the film of the musical at 5.30pm on

Saturday 3 November at the church.

This production is supported by Blackbird Leys Parish Council, Community First and Westhill Endowment.

■ Contact Sasha East on 0791 770 4320 email: sashaeast@yahoo.co.uk

Half Term Halloween Fun

THERE are plenty of spooky activities organised by the Museum of Oxford as part of a programme of half term fun at Oxford Town Hall.

On Thursday 1 November, a Halloween Hauntings Family Day will take place in the Town Hall's atmospheric Victorian Courtroom between 10.30am and 3.30pm.

Visitors will be able to meet spooky costumed guides who will introduce them to the darker side of Oxford's history and the terrors of crime and punishment in the Victorian era. Find out what happened when Victorian criminals went to gaol or make a spine-tingling Halloween craft to scare your family.

A wide range of spooky and not-so-spooky Exploration Station crafts will also be available in the Town Hall Gallery on Saturday 27, Tuesday 30, Wednesday 31 October, Thursday 1 November and Saturday

3 November. Visitors can choose to make a scary cat mask, a hair-raising bat or a mind-boggling optical illusion. Both Halloween Horrors and Optical Illusions Exploration Stations cost £1.50 per pack.



There will also be a chance to put your artistic skills to the test with a range of activities as part of the Big Draw — the world's biggest celebration of drawing. An arty trail round the Town Hall Gallery will be available every day of half term and explores a beautiful exhibition by local artist Gwynne Robins. The trail costs

£1.50 per person and includes a special souvenir prize

But if you are aged between 6 and 14, why not enter the Museum of Oxford's special drawing competition? Can you draw a picture of your favourite object in the Explore Oxford galleries? Or maybe you can imagine a weird and wonderful object that you would like to see on display in the galleries?

The Museum of Oxford Drawing Competition is part of the Big Draw and will run throughout half term from Saturday 27 October with the closing date on Monday 5 November.

Winning entries will be judged by Gwynne Robins himself and will receive a mystery prize.

Entries can be handed to staff at the Museum Shop or send them to the Museum of Oxford, Town Hall, St Aldate's, Oxford, OX1 1BX. Visit the Town Hall Gallery for further details.



SPAR
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Greater Leys

OPEN
7AM TILL 10PM
7 DAYS A WEEK

Free to use ATM

£2 off
when you spend £10 or more
'excludes spend on alcohol, cigarettes & tobacco, lottery or paypoint services.'

Valid until 11 November 2012 at Spar, Dunnoch Way, Greater Leys only

LN101



Whose Health is it Anyway?

THE Leys Health Centre would like to thank all the patients in our Patient Participation Group for their contribution over the last year. As a direct result of their feedback we have made improvements to the services we provide. Looking at the actions detailed below, you will be able to see the significant changes we have made in order to improve patient access.

YOU ASKED US TO...	WE NOW.....
Improve patient access	Give patients, who cannot get to the surgery during working hours, priority for Saturday and late evening appointments
	Have all our GPs, who work in the afternoon, take appointments until 6pm at least once a week
	Have updated our website and Practice Leaflet with this information, as well as: - The availability of double-length appointments when needed. - That weight management advice and help can be provided by our Practice Nurses.
	Have introduced several measures to reduce pressure on GP and nurse appointments: - One of our Health Care Assistants will shortly offer spirometry (breathing measurement) appointments - One of our nurses is now able to give Zoladex injections. - As a pilot project we are offering some patients, who have had a stroke or who have heart disease, a review appointment with a Practice Nurse instead of a doctor
ALSO	WE ARE CONTINUING TO WORK ON.....
	Improving the access and availability of appointments: There will shortly be a survey on Open Surgery appointments carried out by the doctors, to see whether some patients can be helped over the phone or by a nurse instead. (Though the Royal College of General Practitioners says that there is a national shortage of Practice Nurses, so this may not be easy)

These changes would not have happened without the feedback we received from you earlier this year. Don't miss out on this opportunity to give us your views

Patient Participation Group

Our aim is to continually improve our service to you but we cannot do it alone. We need help from our patients, and that's where you come in. Become a member of the PPG by completing your details below and then you can have your say about the services we provide. Sparing just a few minutes will make a real difference to you, and all our patients, by helping us decide where we should focus our Patient Survey in 2013. There is also no commitment, as you can opt out at any time.

Name Date of Birth:
Email: Mobile:
Signed: Date:

After you have filled out your details above, ideally write a comment, or just put a cross **next to the one area** you would like us to focus on improving during 2013. If you have any ideas on how to improve any areas feel free to let us know. Then cut out this form and return it to the address below by **12 November 2012.**

Area of interest	Please write comment or simply place a cross
Access to GPs/GP services and Practice Nurses	
District Nurses/Health Visitors /Midwives/ Podiatry/Speech and Language and other services based at The Leys Health Centre	
Grounds/Parking	
Waiting Room/Facilities in general	
Reception/Reception staff	
Other – Please specify	
No improvements necessary. Very happy	

Thank you once again from the Practice
The Practice would like to thank all the PPG members for their continued interest and support. If you have any other comments that you would like to feed back to the practice, please contact us preferably by email to Leys.ppg@nhs.net or you can write to: **The Leys Health Centre PPG, c/o Susan Renn, Practice Manager, The Leys Health Centre, Dunnoch Way, Oxford OX4 7EX.**

We will use the information you have given to communicate with you regarding patient groups and other health and practice related matters. We will not share your personal information, including your email address, with any third party without your express and written permission. Please note that we will not respond to any medical information or medical questions received through the survey.
Your answers will be analysed by practice staff and kept confidential. We hope to improve our service by getting your feedback and thoughts. Your answers will be kept anonymous if findings are published in any form.

RAISING CASH FOR DAYBREAK



SANDY Briscoe from the Daybreak charity and members of Eynsham Rotary Club collected £338 at Asda in Wheatley to raise awareness and funds for Daybreak Oxford. Daybreak is a specialist charity offering stimulation and socialisation for people living with a dementia, such as Alzheimer's, through day clubs. Just as important, is providing a day of respite for carers, who are often elderly partners

whose only break from caring is when their partner attends a club. Fundraising Manager Sandy Briscoe said: "We welcome anyone affected by dementia to our three Daybreak Clubs, whether that person has just been recently diagnosed or has been affected for some time. Daybreak is about enabling people with a dementia to lead a more engaged and fulfilling life by providing fun and

company in our clubs." Sandy added: "We also welcome the involvement of family, friends and carers in Daybreak's activities as their lives are often deeply affected by dementia too. We provide a monthly carer's support group to help family carers, because those who love and look after someone with dementia can feel anxious, vulnerable and isolated."

Daybreak is an Oxford based charity, and has three clubs located in North Oxford, Greater Leys and Kidlington. A small team of dementia-trained staff and volunteers offer a programme of group activities and care at each club.

The charity charges £10 a day to be a member of a club which covers all activities, a two course meal and refreshments. Transport can usually be provided at a cost of £2.

One in four people over 90 will be diagnosed with dementia, although less frequently younger people, including those in their 50s, can also be diagnosed. The total number of people living with a dementia in 2012 is over 700,000, most of who will be cared for by a partner of similar age.

Daybreak helps people with dementia to live as well as possible through a tailored programme designed to stimulate, and also offer an enjoyable social environment. Daybreak is funded and monitored by Oxfordshire County Council, but is still dependent on voluntary donations to make up a quarter of the budget each year.

■ *For more information go to www.daybreak-oxford.org.uk*

Free story telling workshops at Fusion Arts

DO you have a story to share? A story from your country that no one here knows?

A story your parents told you, or that you would tell to your children? Or maybe there's a story that only YOU know? A story of YOUR life that you'd like to share? Or maybe a song, a joke or a riddle from your country? Or maybe you just want to listen, and why not? Stories need listeners too.

Fusion Arts is currently running a three-year creative arts project, 'Inside Out, Outside In' in Oxfordshire supported by The Tolkien Trust and the Lankelly Chase Foundation, with support from Oxford City Council. Using the power of our most ancient craft of Storytelling to

inspire imaginations, express experiences and share cultural traditions, community workshops will develop an exchange of stories between detainees at Campsfield House and the residents of East Oxford.

Twelve sessions per year will be held at Fusion Arts centre off Cowley Road and locations within the community of East Oxford and Campsfield House IRC, and the stories collected will be published to share with listeners everywhere.

Internationally renowned storytellers Gauri Rajee and Sef Townsend will be leading the 'join-in' workshop sessions. Sharing many languages and experience of working with people of all ages from

around the world, both storytellers bring with them a wealth of stories from a global repertoire—stories of wisdom, justice, power and reward—with songs, games and riddles too. No experience is necessary—all cultures are welcome to join in and contribute - or just listen!

Autumn 2012 sessions are on Wednesdays, 6.30–8.30pm on 31 October 14 and 28 November and 12 December at Fusion Arts, Princes Street behind East Oxford Community Centre, off Cowley Road.

■ *For more information or to book a free place please contact Tara Stewart or Lizzy McBain at Fusion Arts on 01865 245735*

GOLD FOR DOG WARDEN SERVICE

OXFORD City Council's dog warden service has been awarded the RSPCA Gold Award for animal welfare for their stray dog collection service for the second year running.

The service has also been awarded an RSPCA Innovator Award for its work with dogs in the homeless community.

The Gold Award for animal welfare is awarded by the RSPCA and recognises local authorities who have clear procedures in place that ensure both the welfare of the dogs and a

consistency of service.

It also recognises the importance of information and education and rewards authorities who actively promote schemes and services that may reduce the number of long-term strays and straying in their first instance,

Oxford City Council is responsible for dealing with all stray dogs including those found out of hours.

■ *The Dog Warden service is available to give talks and presentations to schools, community groups, parish councils and tenants associations. Call 01865 249 811 for more details.*

CAKES FOR CHARITY

LEYS News Community Journalist Mia Flores-Bórquez helped raise £800 for the Macmillan Cancer Care charity by baking cakes for a coffee morning.

The event at Barclays Bank in Oxford was part of the World's Biggest Coffee Morning. Cake sales totalled just over £400 and this amount was matched by the bank.

■ *If you wish to make a donation or to find out more, go to www.macmillan.org.uk*

LIFE BEGINS AT 50

INTREPID Leys News Community Journalist Jane Yates is determined to make her 50th year the most challenging yet!



Roman Food and Shooting Arrows!

verdict on whether to sentence it to the wheelie bin!

At the start of the month my friends and I had our planned Roman day, we watched a DVD and dressed in sheets with bay leaf wreaths on our heads and cooked roman food, which I have to say was yummy. We cooked chicken and fish in dill and had pickled cheese and very filling authentic bread made with goat's milk. (See photo) Also I tried Jamaican food from a takeaway in Cowley, goat curry and jerk chicken and dumplings, it was really nice.

Another thing I tried to do with my daughter Emily was watch less TV. I got the Wii console out and to my horror I had put on seven pounds! But as it happened I did not do any exercise as I discovered you could stream movies though the Wii, so in fact I ended up watching more TV. Well at least it took my mind of the fact I had put on seven pounds!

Last Saturday Emily and I had our first archery lesson. This is on a beginners course run by the oxford archers; (www.oxford-archers.org), at the rugby club in North Hinksey village.

The teacher split us up into groups and my instructor showed us how to hold the bow. 'grip it firmly in one hand, imagine it is a hamster you are holding, so you don't want it to escape or hold it to tight that its eyes pop out'. We all giggled. I was up first in my group and was feeling a bit nervous. I was told to stand side on with my feet apart and rest the arrow on the bow. We were using bows without the sights on, so it was guess work mainly as to where the arrow would land.

Holding my breath I let the arrow fly from the bow and was relieved that it landed on the target. I fired off the other two and to my surprise they all landed on the board, the other two men in my group did equally well.

I glanced over to see how Emily was doing and her arrows had landed on the target as well. We all had a few more practice shots and then a large cardboard cut-out of a Norman Knight was brought out of the hut and carried half way across the field. We all then had a go at trying it hit him, this was much harder as it was a long way and you had to line up and then aim above the tree line so as to give the arrow a chance to travel that far. No one really hit it apart from Emily, who with her first arrow shoots the arrow through the knight's neck- a kill shot!

Next month I am learning to play a new musical instrument, the Gamelan from Central Java in Indonesia which I had not heard of before but is apparently easy to play.



THIS is my fifth month of starting new things and I am pleased to say that I have tried a few things this month from new types of food to archery.

I am still enjoying my sewing class but have sadly broken my sewing machine. Well there was a loud bang so I will have to wait until the next sewing class for the

CRAFT CORNER

with Jane Yates

Handmade soap

This is a lovely way to make gifts for Christmas and a fun activity to do with friends and family. After the cost of the equipment the slices of soap work out at about £1 each.

Equipment needed to make soap:

- An old fruit juice container, cut along the side
- Rubber gloves and goggles
- Old large pan (try the charity shop)
- Electric stick blender (£7 Argos) or large wooden spoon
- Large Glass bowl
- Medium bowls for mixing the oils
- Medium wooden spoons (cheap in the Co-op)
- Jam thermometer (about £2 in a hardware shop)

Ingredients needed to make one juice cartoon full of soap:

- 8oz of Olive oil
- 4oz Solid coconut nut oil (health food shop)
- 8oz chamomile tea, left to go cold (hot water and two tea bags)
- 3oz Caustic soda, which is called 'Lye' when making soap (boots chemist)
- Essential oils of your choice
- 9oz Vegetable shortening

Safety

- Do not use the equipment for food after making the soap.
- Always wear your goggles and gloves when touching, pouring or mixing the ingredients
- Keep away from pets and small children

Making the soap

- 1.** Add the caustic soda carefully to the cold tea. Place the thermometer into the mixture and wait until the temperature is 40 – 50 degrees.
- 2.** Add the olive oil, coconut oil and the vegetable shortening to the pan. Melt over a gentle heat until dissolved, but do not let the temperature get higher than 50 degrees.
- 3.** Carefully pour the lye solution into the melted oils in the pan and start stirring at once as the mixture thickens quickly.
- 4.** Continue to stir for 45 minutes or use the stick blender until thickens enough so that when you dribble the mixture from a spoon onto its surface it remains on top.
- 5.** Add the essential oils, we used ten drops of geranium and ten drops of lavender.
- 6.** Pour the mixture into the fruit juice cartoon and cover for 24 hours.
- 7.** Remove from the cartoon, slice into sections and leave to dry for four weeks on a sheet of cardboard.
- 8.** Wrap up and give!

A big 'Thank you' to my daughter Marie who taught me to make soap.



Operation Buzzard

Operation Buzzard has now ended for another year and once again proved to be very effective on the estate. Over the last few months members of the Neighbourhood Policing Team have been out and about with the Mobile Police Station and parked up in various locations to speak to residents and visitors to the Leys. PCSO Barry Sheehan said: "We had many visits and gave out a great deal of crime prevention advice as well as showing a visible presence in areas known for criminal activity."

LOCAL COPS AT FUN DAY

PCSOs Barry Sheehan, James Kachellek and Martina Stanikova attended the Fun day on 29 September at the Blackbird Leys Community Centre, organised by the Oxford City Council. They carried out over 100 fingerprints for attendees to take home in a key ring. The day also saw a Punch and Judy show, the Oxford United bouncy castle, great food made by the CDI personnel, face painting, an amazing balloon modeller and an appearance by the local fire brigade, among other things. The day was opened by local MP Andrew Smith.



PET HATES

BY ALAN WITTON

Alan Witton has a few things to say about one of our autumnal festivals...chances are that he won't be lighting a pumpkin this Halloween!

From ghoulies and ghosties.....
....and long-leggedy beasties and things that go bump in the night,
Good Lord deliver us!

A prayer I shall offer with particular vehemence on Halloween eve. Not that I believe in ghoulies and ghosties and things, but I do need to be delivered from the all-too-corporeal presence of youngsters in witches' hats and skeleton costumes, wandering round the neighbourhood demanding "trick or treat?" from their more conventionally clad fellow citizens.

Like most bad ideas (and, to be fair, one or two good ones), this one seems to have invaded our shores from America. No idea when it arrived, but I was certainly never encouraged to go round my childhood home trick-or-treating. We did take Guy Fawkes round the neighbourhood demanding "penny for the guy", and those of us who

could sing (or thought we could) went carol-singing at Christmas time (which means any time from the end of November) to earn a few more valuable pennies. But trick-or-treating was well beyond our scope, and a good job too.

Halloween, as the name implies, is the eve of All Hallows or All Saints Day, which we celebrate on the first of November. On this day Christians gather together to remember those who have gone before us in the Christian life, and to light candles in their memory. It may seem like a long leap from that devout and holy activity to the idea of allowing children out at night to literally spook the living daylight out of their neighbours. But apparently an idea took root many centuries ago, that the evil spirits which people believed in then rather more definitely than they do now, would go about their nasty business with particular energy just before one of the great Christian festivals. Shakespeare refers to a tradition that evil spirits were banished from the earth during the twelve days of Christmas; so presumably if the devil had any dancing to do, Christmas Eve was

as good a time as any to do it. It seems the tradition also applied to the eve of All Saints, which we call Halloween.

In Germany the same tradition applies to a different day (or night). Walpurgisnacht is the night before the feast of Saint Walburga, a devout Christian missionary who tried to spread the Christian message among the heathen Saxons in what we nowadays call the Dark Ages. The tradition there is that the Devil comes down (or up) to the summit of the Brocken, the highest mountain in Northern Germany, on Walpurgisnacht to meet his followers and receive their worship and obedience. Surely that is a festival which any self-confessed Christian ought to avoid like the plague. But people climb the Brocken every year, with witches' hats and broomsticks all complete, in droves to re-enact the ceremony. It has inspired paintings, music ("A Night on a Bare Mountain") and stories galore.

Which doesn't say awfully much for the Americanised version which infests our streets. "Trick or treat" quite literally means give us something (usually something

to eat) or we will play a naughty trick on you. My own front door has never quite recovered from the attentions of some misguided trick-or-treaters some fifteen years ago. And "treats" mean you need a rather large bag of sweets, or apples, or whatever else you think is likely to go down well, to meet the demands of this army of oddly-dressed children. Not a pleasant prospect for people who have to think carefully how to spend their money to feed themselves and their families, never mind battalions of spookily-costumed children from neighbours' houses. If the trick-or-treaters were adults, we would call it blackmail and put them in court for it fairly smartish.

So on the whole I am glad that the forces of law and order have managed to discourage the practice of indiscriminate trick-or-treating. I suppose going and demanding sweets from Aunt Mary, or Uncle Peter, or someone else you know, at least has the makings of an interesting historical survival. Going and doing the same at strangers' houses risks harm to the children as well as to their intended victims.

Therefore I wish to announce that the front door of my house will remain closed to trick-or-treaters, and I will take whatever measures I consider necessary to avoid meeting them at all.

Halloween

GO GREEN ON THE LEYS

The Poultry Diary

BY MIA FLORES-BÓRQUEZ

A LOT HAS happened since I last wrote about my pet poultry. Jeremy, my white Khaki Campbell drake and Haydee my brown Khaki Campbell duck had ducklings. The previous summer I had lost Beatriz to a predator while she sat on her nest of eggs, and it took several extra weeks to get her sister duck Haydee, to give up sitting on the sterile nests.

I had no expectations when I saw that Haydee kept sneaking into the duck house to sit on eggs. I placed her on her own in the secure duck house and gave her a deep nest of hay and straw, fresh water, and a dish with layers' pellets. Her 28 day confinement was interrupted twice when I quickly cleaned her nest. The chickens reacted towards Haydee as if she had just been introduced to the flock and chased her all over the garden. I replaced the soiled hay and the straw with a deep layer of red mahogany wood shavings from Blenheim Palace and coaxed Haydee back into the duck house.

Exactly four weeks after Haydee first sat on her clutch of eggs I stood next to the duck house and listened for the peep-peep of hatchlings. There were no noises coming from the nest area. As I passed the duck house again mid-



Haydee and her duckings

afternoon, I heard a faint peep-peep. I gently peered into the duck house and I saw Haydee surrounded by beautiful fluffy ducklings of various colours. There were yellow ones, striped brown ones, and some with heads as black as little coots. Haydee hissed, fiercely protecting her hatchlings. As I had not had expectations of having ducklings, I had to improvise food for them. The farmer who sold the ducks to me advised me to give the hatchlings mashed boiled eggs mixed with moist layers' pellets. Later, when he brought to me a bag of chicks' crumb (the appropriate food for their age); the ducklings were thriving and preferred to eat the mixture of eggs with moist pellets that I prepared for them twice a day.

The cute ducklings seemed to have been touched with luck from birth as a photograph that I took of them was selected by the BBC's your pictures gallery for Spring 2012!

I have learned much from raising the ducklings. I was careful not to let them become too tame so that they would keep their distance from strangers. The strategy worked: they survived the attention of mischievous boys during the school holiday. Ducks and hens are sensitive creatures so their laying is disrupted by disturbances like stones landing near them and thuds against the garden fence. I was surprised by the ducklings' intelligence. Ducks quack mostly when something disturbs them or threatens

them and, they stay looking and quacking towards where the disturbance and the threat generated. Their behaviour, when faced with danger reminded me of the behaviour of geese, reknown for their alert calls when deterring intruders.

The care and attention that I give my pet poultry is amply rewarded by their eagerness to be in my company. I would definitely recommend poultry keeping as pets for children as prolonged interaction with poultry engenders a sense of responsibility and compassion. Not only that, domesticated poultry are full of character. I am often amused by their idiosyncrasies.

GREEN FINGERS

By Stuart Mabbutt



Wildlife in the hedge

LOOK out into even the tiniest of gardens and most will have a hedge of some description. They can be the perfect shelter and even a food source for many forms of wild creatures.

Best planted between early October and early April, its best to choose plants that happily grow wild in the area within which your garden is situated. When finalising the choice of plants, go for a mixture which will attract more life that just one type of plant.

Dig a big trench and fill with garden compost. The hedge will be there for a long time so you need to give those hungry young plants the best start possible. Planting a double row, if you can, will provide a much denser hedge in the end.

For the initial three years after planting, the new hedge line will be susceptible to wind rock and invasion of competing plants. As the plants grow, layer more compost and lawn mowings around them to counteract these ongoing threats.

When the hedge is well established, try planting some climbers to grow among it, brambles and honeysuckles are ideal.

Planting the odd small tree along the hedge line will work wonders too, for example Crab Apples give extra height and fruit during autumn and winter. Your hedge doesn't have to be totally level, so the odd tree is great.

Hedges are ideal sources of nectar if planted correctly, so have a go at growing a native mixed hedge and watch the bees move in.

Foraging on the Leys
What a difference the rain made

BY MIA FLORES-BÓRQUEZ

LIVING on the boundaries of the city of Oxford has enabled me to practice a hobby that I have pursued for many decades gathering wild, uncultivated, and seasonal foods or foraging. An enduring memory of summer with my children is that of picking blackberries, and rosehips for making jam. The smell that emanates from making blackberry jam is what, to me, signifies the end of summer and heralds the autumn with its glorious array of leaves in copper, reds, yellows, and browns.

Last year, I read library books on the subject of foraging, on medicinal plants, on preserving, and on wild foods. I worked through the alphabet making jellies, jams, butters, oils, oxymels, curds, sauces,

syrops, ketchups, cheeses, pickles, vinegars, and fruit leathers with berries, fruits, and plants. I replicated recipes created as long ago as the 17th Century as well as followed the new trends on health promoting concoctions like those seen on the BBC television programme "Make Your Own Drugs". I even climbed the Eucalyptus tree that I planted in my garden 15 years ago in order to get some of its leaves for making a delicious Elderberry and Eucalyptus cough syrup. The recipe for the cough syrup was devised by the ethno-botanist James Wong and incorporated chillies.

A hobby as public as berry picking not only attracts the genuine interest of walkers, some of whom recalled their parents making jams and jellies from berries, but also the occasional

name calling from boys. A barrage of expletives usually ended telling me to go shopping at the local supermarket. For that is the common perception of picking wild fruits and berries; that it is done because you lack the means to purchase food. I soon found out that processing



wild berries for household consumption was in fact far more costly than even I had anticipated. Processing the various berries alone is quite time-consuming and the cost of buying sugar, vinegar, oil, spices, labels, bottles, and

jars was considerable. There was, in addition, a significant increase in my gas bill. The misconception is that you will produce something that is cheaper than the cheapest comparable generic product, which is mass-produced. The reality is that when making home preserves you end up with a quality product

that excels mass-produced brands, tastes of real fruit or vegetables, is without artificial additives and, above all, has your own individual stamp.

Harnessing the health giving properties found in

some of these wild foods has had real benefits. A regular intake of my home made syrups meant that, although factors in my living arrangements remained the same as in the previous two years I did not become ill with influenza as I had experienced twice during winter. The anti-flu, and anti-viral properties of Elderberries, to name but one of the berries as an example, improved my health but also strengthened my immune system. As autumn came last year I felt vindicated in my seeming eccentricity as Elderberry Syrup on its own made its commercial debut in a television advert. Even my son took a regular dose of my home made syrups.

This year, however, the weather has had a drastic impact on my hobby. Just when we were warned about the impact that drought conditions would have on crops and the environment, we experienced

unprecedented rains. At a time when the fruiting trees were dressed in bloom, the rains washed away the blossom. Furthermore, it was so cold that the bees and other pollinating insects kept away as they could not warm themselves sufficiently to perform their vital task of pollination. The result is that trees usually heavy with fruit have been almost totally bare and the production of berries is unusually low.

With foraging comes responsibility, respect, and consideration for the environment. The wild fruits and berries, above all, have a vital role in sustaining the local fauna. From a simple observation of the hedgerows I know that the wild birds and wild mammals will struggle to survive this winter living on the available berries. I hope to pursue my hobby again when the weather has not had such a marked impact on the wild flora of the Leys.



By Lily Rodgers

AUTUMN CELEBRATIONS: TIME FOR SOME SCARY, FIERY FUN!

THE Pumpkins, dressing up, scary costumes, trick or treating, bonfires! It all gets rather exciting at this time of year; in fact, I'm bouncing in my seat and I haven't eaten any trick or treat sweets... yet!

However, while Halloween and bonfire night is a time for celebration and excitement, there is a fine line between going over the top, and generally annoying everyone, and simply enthusiastically enjoying the fun. To help you not cross to the 'annoying' side of the pitch, while still experiencing maximum merriment, here are some helpful hints and tips for irresistible recipes, entertaining games and unique fancy dress ideas so you get the most out of this enjoyable time of year.

Halloween is thought to have originated around 2,000 years ago,



with the ancient Celtic festival of Samhain. People would light bonfires, dance and feast around them while wearing costumes to ward off roaming ghosts. Later on, in the eighth century, Pope Gregory III designated 1 November as a time to honour all saints and martyrs, and, Halloween derives from All Hallow Even, the eve of All Hallows Day, or All Saints Day, (saint being the English word for Hallow).

To make your house and garden look the part, Halloween decorations really set the mood and put nerves on edge. Ideas include a bat attack ceiling decoration, bloody footprint floor runner, hanging ghosts, black spider balloons, cemetery table decorations and a giant stretchy, bloody spider web to top it all off.

With the setting in place, food is necessary to keep the 'ware wolf from the door' so to speak. 'Bloody peanuts' are a delicious snack that are simply peanuts coated with BBQ sauce and baked at 300 degrees for ten minutes, or until they appear to be covered in mouth-watering 'dried blood'. Dislike the thought of eating blood? Why not try worms on a bun with zombie sauce? This delectable delight involves 'worms' in the form of hotdog sausages on a bun with Heinz 'Funky Purple' or 'Blastin' Green' zombie ketchup. A slightly more appealing bite, would be homemade caramel or toffee apples. After melting several packets of caramels or toffees take medium sized apples and dip them



into the caramel, covering completely. Allow apples to cool and set before sinking your Dracula teeth into them for a sweet party treat!

What to wear, what to wear! Dressing up for Halloween can be rather tricky, as finding a different, recognisable and heart-stoppingly scary costume isn't easy. One idea is to dress up and imitate Halloween decor used in gardens. By donning the outfit of a scarecrow or Frankenstein monster and keeping exceptionally still until the last moment, when someone comes up or walks by and you move or shout, scaring the living daylight out of them. Try

putting a twist on the traditional, by dressing as an 'evil' jester, or not so sweet 'Gouhildilocks', or 'Tinkerspell' the fairy or the 'bad hatter' or even an evil Chucky from the friendly Rugrats. If being on the dark and deathly side doesn't appeal to you, opt for the 'good guy' costume and bring down those monsters and vampires by dressing as a Ghost buster, or Zombieland bee killer, or simply an innocent 'pumpkin'. Whatever you chose, take on the character but remember to snap out when required, as being subject to a ghost pirate all evening can get surprisingly tiresome.

To ensure a fun Halloween and

bonfire night, games and activities are essential. While apple bobbing and gruesome feel boxes are classic favourites, the 'eat your brains' game is a modern take on the two. For this game, a jelly needs to be prepared with marshmallows, short gummy worms and grapes inside. On the night bring out the jelly and select certain people to dissect the 'head' and pick out all the brains and spit them out, without using any hands. This can be held as a race with numerous jellies for hilarious entertainment. Ghost Hunter is another fun game involving numerous ghosts (toy ghosts or lollipops in the shape of ghosts) with a letter written on them, hidden around the house and garden.

Everyone is divided into groups and given a clue sheet containing

clues such as "I live by the swings in the back garden and at night I come out from under Mr Roberts (Dads) favourite chair". Each team will return with the ghosts containing letters used to make up the mystery word. First team to announce the word wins.

Halloween and bonfire night are two of the most thrilling celebrations of the year. It's a time for family to come together as they carve out giant pumpkins, neighbours to offer generosity when handing out sweets, and friends to catch up around roaring bonfires. So when partaking in the joys of this fear-provoking holiday, always remember to balance your keenness and creepiness with consideration and creativity, or you may end up with fires lit in your honour, for keeping you away!



Photo: Caleb Zahnd

Hands and body



Nelson's Calendula multi-purpose cream (£4.65) is the perfect handbag companion, this cream is perfect for those everyday dry skin problems. It is light enough to use on the face but probably wouldn't use it as part of my daily skin routine as I tend to like something with an SPF. A no frills product that it likely to be a beauty bag staple for years to come. It sinks into the skin quickly, leaves skin feeling soft and looking visibly smoother and there's no greasy residue often left behind by thicker lotions. If you prefer something with a sweeter fragrance, Aubrey hand and body lotion in rosa mosqueta is a beautifully thick hand cream, although the scent may leave you smelling like a old ladies knicker drawer if worn all over the body.

household classic is Johnson's, with their trademark scent and reputation for the 'go to for baby care' brand, they rarely go wrong. The 24hour Moisture Extra-Rich Body Lotion doesn't disappoint, and if you're already a fan of the brand you won't go wrong here. Although I question if the stuff in this bottle is any different to the stuff labelled 'baby lotion'.

Face

Look for products aimed at sensitive skin for the autumn and winter months as it'll be calming against skin that's been irritated by wind or central heating, even if you don't normally suffer from sensitive skin. With cloves and cinnamon in the ingredients, JooMo Face Wash stuff smells amazingly festive, although more like something I'd hang on my Christmas tree rather than put on my face. Aimed at zit-prone teenagers, the face wash has an oily texture and doesn't lather up on the skin, which is probably down to its entirely natural ingredients list. It doesn't leave that tight, dry feeling on your skin but I'm not convinced it doesn't just polish the surface rather than deep clean. Now get ready, because this one is quite a treat. St Ives Warming Scrub is an utterly delicious smelling new scrub which warms when it comes

Witch redness relief moisturiser. I was impressed with the product's ability to reduce the appearance of redness (yes it's supposed to be green). The only downside to the product was the consistency. I found the cream too thick, meaning I had to squeeze more out than usual to get an even coverage over my face and since it only comes in a small tube, isn't the most cost effective of products. Toner is often the most ignored or forgotten part of the skin routine.

A key product for rehydrating the skin and removing any leftover nastiness from your cleanser, Aloe Fleur de Jouvence Rehydrating Toner (£11.53) is a brilliant choice. It feels cool and refreshing against the skin. The range's key ingredient is soothing aloe vera, making the products perfect for all skin types during winter but a little on the pricey side, this brand is a bit of a treat.

For a light weight face cream which feels cooling against the skin Natorigin Tolerance Extreme Detox Moisturising cream whereas the Firming anti-wrinkle cream by the same brand is thicker and would be better suited to ultra dry skin as it leaves a slightly greasy residue on the surface if you skin isn't dry enough to suck in all that moisture.

Lips

Lips are likely to be the first thing you notice to be affected by the weather. That horrible red, inflamed, cracked line you get along the outside of your lips needn't be an issue if you remember to pick a good lip balm and keep it on you at all times.



Blistex Daily Conditioner (£2.30) is brilliant and hasn't left my handbag since I tried it. It feels slightly tingly and almost minty on the lips and has an immediate soothing effect which was long lasting.

Long known for looking after your skin with fragrance free products, Simple now has a Kind to Lips Intensive Lip Moisturiser. The lip cream is more like a thin gel than a balm but I loved the easy-to-apply tube packaging. Where possible, I always opt for a product with SPF in it, even during winter to give skin maximum protection.

Palmer's Cocoa Butter Formula Lip Balm contains SPF 15, but has a slightly gritty texture to it.



The scent has a comforting quality about it though making it perfect for coping with the miserable weather. If you're skin really suffers in the cold, something like E45 Intense Recovery will ease the pain and itchiness of stretched, cracked skin. E45 is a tried and tested no frills brand which does exactly what it says on the bottle. It comes in a bigger bottle too which means apart from getting more for your money, you can lather as much on as you want, as often as you want without worrying you'll run out. A personal favourite of mine and



Fashion on the Leys with Natalie Wallace

GRAB YOUR WINTER WOOLIES!



① FINALLY, the woolly scarves are out, jumpers are being layered up and as I write this I'm clutching a hot water bottle, so it's definitely time for the heating to come on. Here are some beautiful pieces to give your winter wardrobe a kick start.

Tapestry embroidered designs were hot on the Dolce and Gabbana catwalk and they've single-handedly (or double-handedly) made it one of the biggest trends of the winter. It's particularly exciting for those who wish to follow the fashion but can't afford/aren't willing to splash the cash on designer accessories because tapestry and carpet style bags and purses can be found by the bin liner load in charity and vintage shops for mere pittance. If you'd rather not go on a bag hunt, Matalan has served up a satchel style shoulder bag (7) and slipper



shoes ready for the taking. The tapestry style embroidery look requires the wearer to embrace a certain amount of 'Mary Poppins does granny chic' and you either love it or hate it. If you'd rather go for F.A.B than O.A.P, choose an elegant floral pattern in darker, jewel hues. This silk scarf is £12 (6) from Accessorize and has a

sophisticated appeal. Nothing else says elegant like a gorgeous pair of court shoes (2). These from Next (1) are extra special with a pretty pink rose pattern, mix them up with a pair of blue skinny jeans and an oversized knit to combine casual with grown up cool.

Before the time comes to start shopping for a new wool beanie, or perhaps a suede fedora, create a new look with a new hair style and have fun with pretty hair clips.

Leather is a huge trend for winter and the more the better.



Unfortunately it's one of those risky looks that could leave you looking like an aging Judas Priest groupie who's come straight from the Bulldog Bash, if care is not taken. If it's your first time, start off small with leather details. This Florence and Fred at Tesco knitted dress (4) (£18) with leather pocket details is ideal.

While you can still get away without a big coat, layers you can take off or pile on depending

on the time of day are the way forward. Next does a knitted cape (5) (£24) with cosy fur collar (faux, obvs) which makes these sort of shenanigans a pleasure. Red will always look good in winter, will never be out of style and will look good whatever your hair colour or skin tone. This one is from Primark, (3) I hear you weep with joy.

Now down to the serious business. Oxford Fashion Week is coming to the city on the 5 to the 11 of November and promises to be better than ever this year. Tickets are available to buy on the



website www.oxfordfashionweek.com but the Ethical Fashion Fair and High Street Show are both free to attend but if you can't get down there, follow me on <http://shoefloozie.blogspot.com> for daily updates.

What's On at The Leys Children's Centre

NOVEMBER – DECEMBER 2012
61–63 Cuddesdon Way, Blackbird Leys OX4 6SB

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Cuddesdon Corner For Mikko Enticknap call 01865 773263 (Linked with Orchard Meadow School 01865 778609) For Anne Wells and Valerie O'Malley call 01865 779615 For Camille Kalaja call 0789 995 8316	NEW! Make-Up and Nails* <i>Starting 26 November</i> 9.30–11.30am Contact Anne Wells NEW! Christmas Treats with Claire* <i>Monday 17, Wednesday 19 and Thursday 20 December.</i> 9.30am–11.30am. A £5 charge is payable on this course. Contact Anne Wells Stay & Play for Babies, dads, mums and carers 1.00–3.00pm. Contact Mikko Enticknap. The Breastfeeding Café —for pregnant and feeding mums 1.00–2.00pm. Contact Camille Kalaja. The Listening Centre 12.30–9.00pm. Phone 01865 794794	PEEP for Babies # 9.30–10.30am. Call 01865 395145. Stay & Play with lunch <i>(small fee)</i> 11.00am–2.00pm. <i>Including:</i> ● Speech and Language Advice Available 12.00–1.00pm. ● Nursery Nurse Advice and information available on the second Tuesday of the month, 11.00am–12.00pm. ● Lone Parent Advisor Advice and information available on the last Tuesday of the month, 12.00–2.00pm. Job Centre Plus 1.00–2.00pm. See Joumana at Cuddesdon Corner. The Listening Centre 5.00–9.00pm.	NEW! Entry to Childcare <i>Starting 7 November</i> 9.15–11.45am Support Our Sparklers* <i>14 November and 12 December</i> 10.00–11.15am. Contact Ruth or Laura 01865 779615 Midwife Clinic for post natal and baby checks, support and advice. 12.30–2.00pm. Drop-in or make an appointment on 01865 221696. New Baby Group For parents and children birth to 12 months. 1.00–2.30pm. Contact Mikko Enticknap. The Listening Centre 5.00–9.00pm.	Agnes Smith Advice Centre (for advice on benefits, money advice and debt) 10.00am–1.00pm. Contact Jackie Knight 01865 770206. Also for details of other drop-in sessions. Asian Women's Group* Starting 19 April. 1.00–2.30pm. Contact Anne Wells. NEW! Christmas Creative Sewing* Starting 15 November 1.00 pm – 3.00 pm Contact Anne Wells Single sessions at Cuddesdon Corner Housing Information session on Thursday 8 November, 12.45–3.00pm <i>Childcare is available for all single sessions.</i> <i>Contact Anne Wells to book places.</i>	NEW! Oxford Family Mediation Drop-In* 9.30–11.30am Stay & Play with lunch <i>(small fee)</i> 9.00am–2.45pm. Dads Worker available. Saturday Dad's Zone 10.00 am–1.30pm. Contact Conroy Harris 0777 540 7524. PARENT FORUM Thursday 13 December at Windale School 9.30–11.30am <i>Childcare available</i>
		Coming Soon ● Hairdressing ● Intermediate Computer Course ● Helping Children with Literacy Skills ● ESOL		Crèche places will be limited for courses and single sessions. A £5 refundable deposit is required for each course. <i>For more information contact Anne Wells on 01865 7779615</i>	
Orchard Meadow 01865 778609		Parents Coffee Morning in the Parent Room, 9.00–10.00am			
Pegasus 01865 777175 Contact Rachel Walding			Stay and Play 9.15–11.30am Stay and Play 12.45–3.00pm		Saturday Maluchy (Little Ones) 10.00–11.30am, Pegasus School Call Agata 07874 187 704
Windale 01865 777796 Contact Karen Clarke	Stay and Play 9.30–11.30am Time for Twos 1.30–3.00 pm		Sewing Circle 9.00–11.00am	Stay and Play 1.15–3.00pm NEW! Aromatherapy <i>Thursday 8 November</i> 9.30–11.30am	Parents Coffee Morning 9.00–11.00am
Leys Health Centre	Infant Feeding Talks For pregnant women 11.00am–12.00pm. To book an appointment Contact Camille Kalaja on 01865 788688	Baby Massage <i>Starting 6 November</i> For babies from eight weeks old living on The Leys. 1.00–2.00pm. Contact Linda Picton 01865 788688		Baby PEEP 1.30–2.30pm. Call 01865 395145	
The Dovecote Nightingale Avenue	PEEP for 1s 9.30–10.30am Call 01865 395145	Sparklers Every other Tuesday, 1.15–2.15pm. Contact Ruth Donaldson 01865 779615	PEEP for 2s 9.30–10.30am Grandparent Drop-In 1.00–2.30pm. Contact Valerie O'Malley 01865 779615	Co-operative Nursery Provides childcare on the Leys 8.00am–6.00pm, Monday to Friday For more information call 01865 401205 Additional childcare information available on a separate leaflet. (For a copy contact Valerie O'Malley on 01865 779615)	



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EVERYONE WELCOME!

Find more information on our website
www.theleyschildrenscentre.org

*CHILDCARE AVAILABLE

Children's Centres
 for families in Oxfordshire

CHRISTMAS IS COMING! Two days of light night celebrations planned for city



CELEBRATIONS for Christmas in Oxford will take place over two days this year. Following last year's success when more than 29,000 people enjoyed the lantern parade, the stalls and the entertainment, the event is being staged over two nights.

Christmas Light Night has become a regular fixture in the

Oxford Christmas calendar and is an evening of lights, dance, art, live music and street performance, all thrown together with a generous helping of festive cheer.

This year, the Christmas Lights will be illuminated from Thursday 22 November with city centre retailers launching late night Christmas shopping.

Christmas Light Night takes place the following night on Friday 23 November with the children's lantern procession, supported by MINI Plant Oxford, the St Giles Stage with live singing, dancing and celebrations, and the city's best loved cultural venues opening their doors.

The night gives over 300 local school children the chance to play a

creative role in the evening by taking part in the artist led workshops and in the spectacular city centre lantern procession.

Inspired by a theme of the Frozen Planet, local artists will work with the children to create lanterns designed by Witney artist, Paul Batten.

Christmas Light Night runs from 5pm to 10pm with the lantern procession starting at the Old Fire Station in Gloucester Green at 6.15pm and ending with a grand finale in St Giles.

The event is one of Oxford's largest community celebrations and offers local arts and cultural organisations, as well as community and voluntary groups, the chance to be involved.

Anyone planning on visiting the city centre on Christmas Light Night is being asked to think carefully about their travel arrangements.

Ceri Gorton, Cultural Development Manager at Oxford City Council, said: "It is fantastic that MINI Plant Oxford is once again supporting the lantern procession.

"We are looking forward to the workshops taking place across the city where hundreds of local school children will be involved.

"The procession was fantastic last year and by keeping the event in St Giles it means that many more people can attend and enjoy the

procession as it weaves through the streets of Oxford.

"I'd encourage people to go to Cornmarket, St Giles and Queen Street to watch the procession."

Jacqui Ibbotson, Head of Culture at Oxford Inspires, added: "Christmas Light Night is a successful partnership event. We work closely with dozens of cultural organisations, performers, artists, community groups and dance groups in order to deliver a magical evening that celebrates the richness of local arts and culture.

"We hope, once again, to attract large audiences and launch the holiday season by helping to light up the county town."

Rebecca Baxter from MINI Plant Oxford, added: "We are delighted to be supporting this event again. It's something that the whole community can get involved with. We're looking forward to building upon the hands-on work that our employees undertook last year working with participating schools to help children build their lanterns."

Christmas Light Night in Oxford is being co-ordinated by Oxford Inspires, Oxford City Council and Ian Nolan Events on behalf of communities and cultural organisations across the city.

WIN TICKETS! IT'S PANTO TIME! Oh no it isn't... oh YES it is!

PANTO season is upon us, and following last year's hugely successful Mother Goose, Oxford Playhouse is creating another feel-good pantomime guaranteed to delight and entertain all the family. This year, there's only one man that fits the bill – Dick Whittington! Packed with festive mischief, colourful characters and toe-tapping tunes, Dick Whittington plays at Oxford Playhouse from Friday 30 November to Sunday 13 January.

London's calling and with his faithful cat by his side, our hero Dick ventures off to the big city. But he can't do it without your help! Be there to cheer Dick on along his journey; 'boo' at the biggest baddie of all time, King Rat, and 'ahh' at the object of Dick's affections; the beautiful Alice. Fit to burst with fabulous



music, stunning dancing plus lots of festive sparkle and chances to join in, this is going to be one Christmas panto not to miss.

Tickets for Dick Whittington at Oxford Playhouse are available from the Ticket Office on 01865 305305 or book online at www.oxfordplayhouse.com but we have a family ticket for two adults and two children for Saturday December 1 at 2pm to give away in our brilliant competition

To be in with a chance of winning, all you have to do is answer this question correctly:

Where does Dick go in search of his fortune?

- A) New York
- B) Bristol
- C) London

Please send your answers with your name, address and telephone number to: Leys News, 26 Kingfisher Green, Greater Leys, Oxford Or email editor@leysnews.co.uk and put PANTO in the subject line. Entries must be received by 15 November and usual terms and conditions apply.

Bewitching production celebrates 50 years of Pegasus



WINNIE the Witch, the much loved character, created by writer Valerie Thomas and illustrator Korky Paul, was first seen on stage in the year 2000, performed by a cast of young people aged between five and nine at Pegasus Theatre in East Oxford.

Pegasus is an arts centre established in East Oxford since 1962. It specialises in a range of performing arts for young people in collaboration with professional artists and in parallel with the making and presentation of new work by established and emerging artists and companies.

Pegasus runs a commissioning and producing programme, Made In East Oxford, to create new work for children, young people and families for presentation in the

home venue and tour nationally and internationally.

Throughout 2012 the venue celebrates 50 years of Oxford Youth Theatre at Pegasus with a year-long programme of events and activities ending with a show produced by Pegasus, performed by Gonzo Moose and featuring the Pegasus Youth Theatre Companies in a pre-show performance installation around the public areas of the theatre.

This year Oxford University Press are celebrating 25 years of the original Winnie The Witch picture book and Pegasus is producing a professional production with in-house company the O Biscuits Collective in November as part of the venue's own 50th

anniversary season.

Oxford-based illustrator Korky Paul, who is also a patron of Pegasus, is closely involved in the production and will be leading workshops before the shows for families to share.

Composer and musician Hannah Rhodes and her colleague performer and puppeteer Emma Boor, previously seen at Pegasus this season in Macamu and the Magic Music Band, were both involved in the highly successful series of children's shows based at Pegasus - Betty Bumble's Time Tumble - Hannah as Musical Director and Emma as puppeteer, roles they will be taking again for the new show. In November they will be involved in the premiere of the new production of Winnie The Witch celebrating the 25th anniversary of the book and Pegasus' 50th anniversary as a youth arts venue. It is planned for this production to go on tour in 2013.

Winnie The Witch

At Pegasus, Magdalen Road, Oxford OX4 1RE
Thursday 8 – Saturday 10 November, 1pm and 6pm
Sunday 11 November Show at 11am and 3pm; Activities at 10am and 2pm
Tickets Workshop and show (1 adult + 1 child) £13 Show only £7 full, £3 U12

www.pegasustheatre.org.uk/shows/winnie-the-witch

Are you doing everything you can to recycle?

4 out of 5 bags of waste we throw away could be recycled, please use your blue recycling bin and food waste caddies to recycle as much as possible.

Food waste recycling



What goes in your recycling bin?



NEW! Recycle Batteries

Household batteries can now be recycled at the kerbside.

Please present your batteries in a clear plastic bag, such as a sandwich bag, on top of your green or blue wheeled bins on your collection day.

■ The power to recycle!

It's now even easier for residents to recycle small electrical items such as toasters, kettles and hairdryers with the arrival of nine pink recycling banks in the city. The closest banks to Blackbird Leys are:

- Tesco Car Park, Ambassador Avenue
- Sainsbury Heyford Hill

If you would like advice on recycling or more information please log onto www.oxford.gov.uk/recycling email recycling@oxford.gov.uk or call 01865 249 811



Kids' colouring competition



THIS month two lucky readers have the chance to win a brilliant 91-piece art set, so get those pens and pencils out and get creative!

Just colour in this bonfire scene, then send your entries to:

Kids' Colouring Competition
Leys News
26, Kingfisher Green,
Greater Leys
Oxford
OX4 7BX

The most creative entry we receive by Monday 19 November wins!



Thanks to Oxford Brookes University for sponsoring this page. If you are interested in studying at Oxford Brookes please call Sobia Afridi on 01865 484886

Leys Learning

News from BLITZ

IT courses still FREE with Blitz!

- Would you like to improve your IT skills?
- Would you like to improve your work prospects?
- Would you like help to get a Job?

If yes then phone now to find out about our courses.

DROP IN TIMES:
(FREE access to the internet for all adults)

Monday: 12.30–3.00pm
Tuesday: 12.30–3.00pm
Friday: 12.30–3.00pm

Do you want to help your community?

BLITZ is currently looking for voluntary teaching assistants with basic IT skills

For more information call 01865 714492

Blackbird Leys IT Hub
Leys Linx Centre, Blackbird Leys Community Centre

COURSES, WORKSHOPS AND OPPORTUNITES

ABLE CENTRE Free courses in Maths and English

Improve your skills and get a recognised qualification. Able Centre, Blackbird Leys Library.

To book a time to come in call 01865728688

Ethnic Minority Business Services

Tyndale House, Second Floor,
134b Cowley Road,
Oxford OX4 1JQ.
EMBS provides training for the unemployed, learning services for both adults and young people (ages 16–18) and business courses for local businesses.
Call 07865 794431



Applying for a School Place?



From mid-September 2012 onwards you need to apply for a school place if:

■ Your child was born between 1 September 2008 and 31 August 2009 as they will be starting Primary School in September 2013.

→ You need to apply by 15 January 2013

■ Your child was born between 1 September 2001 and 31 August 2002 as they will be starting Secondary School in September 2013.

→ You need to apply by 31 October 2012

Key things to remember:

- Apply on time
- Make use of all 3 school preferences on the form
- It is recommended that one of your 3 school preferences is your catchment area school.
- If your child attends a nursery or pre-school on a school site you still need to apply for a school place as this does not happen automatically.

Apply online at

www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/admissions

Get free, impartial and confidential advice about your school options.



The Choice Advice Team in the Oxfordshire Family Information Service can help you if:

- You have recently moved to Oxfordshire and don't know the schools or area well
- English is not your first language
- You, or your child, have additional needs
- You would like someone to talk through the school options with you

Contact the Oxfordshire Family Information Service to arrange to speak with a Choice Adviser.

Contact us by email at
paa@oxfordshire.gov.uk
or call us on 08452 26 26 36



This is a free, impartial service for families who may have difficulties working through the process.



Opportunities to study in Oxford

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Approved Institution

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Ruskin College Oxford offers:

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- the opportunity to learn with other adults
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- a diverse student body committed to equality
- short courses restarting in September - preparation for work or study

Places still available for September 2012

It's not too late to apply for a FREE* one-year course starting in October!

Want a degree but have no previous qualifications? If the answer is YES, then Ruskin College, Oxford is for you!

For a full list of courses that Ruskin has to offer, visit our website or to speak to someone, contact the details below.

01865 739630
admissions@ruskin.ac.uk

For short courses contact:

01865 739632
shortcourses@ruskin.ac.uk

Follow us on:

Ruskin College
Walton Street
Oxford
OX1 2HE

*If you are aged 19+, study full time, haven't had any training and have lived in the UK for 3+ years

www.ruskin.ac.uk

Ruskin College is approved by The Open University as an appropriate organisation to offer higher education programmes leading to Open University validated awards

Halloween^N
AT TEMPLARS SQUARE

Pumpkin giveaway
Tuesday 30th & Wednesday 31st
October 2012 • 1100-1500

PLUS

Balloonatics
Balloon modellers
Wednesday 31st October 2012 • 1100-1500

Face painter
Wednesday 31st October 2012 • 1100-1500

For more details visit our website:
www.templarssquare.com
129 Pound Way, Cowley, Oxford, OX4 3XH
Tel: 01865 748864

TEMPLARS SQUARE
Shopping Centre
www.templarssquare.com

YOUR LOCAL REPRESENTATIVES

■ **Parish Council**
Chairman: Gordon Roper;
Vice Chair: Brian Lester;
Non-position holders: Tanya Prescott, Chris Hatton, Cyril Martin, Mrs Ann Booker, Mrs Sheila Smith, Pat Stannard, Gerry Webb

For further details telephone 01865 716943 during office hours of 9am–5pm, Monday to Friday. Send mail to Parish Council, 13 Bailey Road, Oxford, OX4 3HU.

Also check leysonline.net to find out about Parish Council Meetings.

■ Oxford City Council

Blackbird Leys Ward

■ **Val Smith – Labour**
 4 Flaxfield Road, OX4 6QD
 ☎ 07767 446051
 valsmith@gmail.com
 or cllrvsmith@oxford.gov.uk
 (her city councillor entry)

■ **Rae Humberstone – Labour**
 75 Little Bury, Blackbird Leys
 ☎ 01865 779678
 cllrhumberstone@oxford.gov.uk

Val Smith and Rae Humberstone will be doing street surgeries every other week. They can also visit people in their homes—ring or email to make arrangements.

Northfield Brook Ward

■ **Steve Curran – Labour**
 88 Fairacres Road, Oxford, OX4 1TG
 ☎ 07941 785538
 StephenCurran55@yahoo.co.uk

■ **Scott Seamons – Labour**
 Flat 14, 113 Oxford Road, Oxford OX4 2GY
 ☎ 07910 595047
 cllrseamons@oxford.gov.uk

Steve Curren and Scott Seamons have a surgery at 6.30pm on the first Monday of the month at the Clockhouse.

■ Oxfordshire County Council

Leys & Lye Division

■ **Val Smith – Labour**
 4 Flaxfield Road, OX4 6QD
 ☎ 07767 446051
 val.smith@oxfordshire.gov.uk

■ **Richard Stevens – Labour**
 Flat 6 Eaton Court, Water Eaton Road, Oxford OX2 7QT
 ☎ 07725 353031
 richard.stevens@oxfordshire.gov.uk

■ Member of Parliament

Member of Parliament for Oxford East

■ **Andrew Smith – Labour**
 Unit A, Bishops Mews, Transport Way, Oxford OX4 6HD
 ☎ 01865 595790
 andrewsmith.mp@virgin.net

Surgery: Every third Friday at the Blackbird Leys Leisure Centre from 3.00pm

WHAT'S ON in the Leys

ADVICE

■ **Agnes Smith Advice Centre**
 Gives free independent and impartial advice. Drop-in sessions are in the centre on Mondays 2.00–4.00pm and Fridays 10.00am–12.00pm. Also in the Farmhouse on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 10am–12pm.
 ☎ 01865 770206

CHILDREN

■ **BLAP: Afterschool club**
 Outdoor and indoor activities for yrs 8–13 in a structured environment.
 3.00–5.15pm. £1 per session (5 sessions for £4.00)
 ☎ 07530933690 and 01865 236646

■ **Breastfeeding Café**
 Mondays, 1.00pm–2.00pm at Leys Children's Centre, Cuddesdon Corner.
 ☎ Camille, 0789 995 8316

■ **Blackbird Leys Youth Centre**
 Blackbird Leys Road. Variety of activities and advice for young people. ☎ 01865 772886.

■ **Brownies:**
 Thurs, Holy Family Church Hall.
 ☎ Jennifer Pleass 07886 757338.

■ **Dovecote Afterschool Club**
 Mondays–Thursdays, 3.15pm–

5.00pm, £1.30 per session.
 ☎ 01865 712299

■ **Maluchy group**
 for Polish speaking families with children ages 0 to 5 years. Saturday, 10.00am–11.30am, at Pegasus School.
 ☎ Agata, 07874 187 704

■ **35th Oxford Scout Group**
 ☎ Duncan Bowler, 0776 6293353
 duncan@35thoxford.com

■ **Leys Kiddie Club**
 Mon, Tue, Thur and Fri, 9.30am–2.30pm, at Dovecote Family Drop-in Room. £1.

■ **Oxfordshire (The Rifles) Battalion Army Cadet Force**
 Thursdays, 7.30–9.30p at Sandy Lane West. Boys and girls ages 13 to 18.
 ☎ 01869 259681

■ **Mother and Toddler Bounce**
 Trampoline Sessions suitable for mothers and toddlers held on Thursdays, 10.30–11.30am. Blackbird Leys Leisure Centre.
 ☎ Fiona, 07891 419793

■ **Strawbery Fayre Majorettes**
 Training every Wednesday at the Barn in Nightingale Avenue, Greater Leys, 7.00–9.15pm. Taking on new members any time of the year.
 ☎ Eleen Filer 01865 717781

A quick guide to what's available locally. If you have a service or event you'd like to include, please ring 01865 711756

■ **Rainbows**
 For girls aged 5 to 7. Fridays during term time, 5.30–6.30pm, at the Holy Family Church Hall on Cuddesdon Way.
 ☎ Alexandra, 07804 500313.

■ **Teenage Rounders Class**
 Tuesdays, 4.00–5.00pm
 £1.20. For 14–18 year olds
 Blackbird Leys Leisure Centre

EDUCATION

■ **Blackbird Leys Library**
 Cuddesdon Way.
 Books, DVDs, audio books, use of computers for adults and children, photocopying, reading group, holiday activities.
Opening times:
 Mon, Wed, Thur: 9am–12pm and 1.30–5pm
 Tue: 9am–12pm
 Sat: 9.30am–12.30pm
 Friday Closed

■ **Able Centre**
 Free courses in Maths and English.
 ☎ Nicky, 01865 728688

■ **Blitz IT Courses**
 IT for beginners, internet, email, file management, PC maintenance and more.
 ☎ 01865 714492

LEISURE

■ **Irish dancing.**
 Sacred Heart Hall. Weds and Thurs, 5pm.

■ **Boxing Club.**
 Tues and Thurs 7.30–9.00pm, at Youth Centre, Blackbird Leys Road.
 ☎ Tony Gibson, 01865 432995

■ **Blackbird Leys Swimming Pool**
 Blackbird Leys Road.
General swimming times are:
 Mon & Fri, 5.45–6.45pm;
 Sat & Sun, 11.15am–1.00pm, & 1.30–2.30pm
Prime Time for over 50s:
 Mon, 12–1.00pm;
 Wed, 11.30–12.30pm
Water Workout:
 Tue and Fri, 12–1.00pm
Slimming World
 Thurs, 12–1.00pm
 ☎ 01865 467040

■ **BBL Leisure Centre**
Zumba:
 Mondays, 10.30–11.30am
Body Balance:
 Tuesdays, 11.00–12.00pm
Legs, Bums, Tums:
 Wednesdays, 10.15–11.15am
Body Pump:
 Thursdays, 9.30–10.30am
Pilates:
 Thursdays, 10.30–11.30am
Boxercise:
 Fridays, 10.30–11.30am
Overs 50s indoor cycling:
 Mondays, 11.30–12.15pm
 ☎ 01865 467020

OLDER PEOPLE

■ **Prime Time Over 50s group**
 Wednesdays, 10.30am - 3.30pm, at Blackbird Leys Leisure Centre, Pegasus Road (£1.50). Keep fit, bingo, indoor bowls, speakers, activities and trips.
 ☎ 07534 740589

■ **Golden Circle**
 ☎ Bernard Tucker, 460592

■ **Silver Circle**
 ☎ 435954 (Blackbird Leys Community Centre)

The Clockhouse
 see box on opposite page

■ **Monday lunch club**
 ☎ Anne Appleton, 422231

■ **Leys Community Church Over 60s Club**
 Wednesday afternoons.
 ☎ Keith Templar, 715815

■ **Grandparents' Stay & Play**
 Bring your grandchildren to the Leys Childrens Centre drop-in, specially for grandparents. Weds 1–3 pm at the Dovecote.

WELLBEING

■ **Skiptrix Fitness Class**
 Get fit, tone and lose weight. Thursdays, 6.30–7.15pm at the Ark T Centre, Cowley. Satudays, 10–10.45am at the Barn, BBLLeys. £4.00 per class.
 ☎ Trish, 07957754355
 trishwisdom@yahoo.co.uk

■ **Slimming World**
 Thursdays, 5.15pm and 7.00pm, Leisure Centre, Pegasus Road.
 ☎ Gill, 01865 730009

CLASSIFIEDS

Reach new customers in your local area with a Leys News Classified ad. Advertise your business from as little as £10 per issue (when booking for 12 months). To book your space ring John on 01865 711756

BUSINESS SERVICES

Does your business need a boost?

We offer a cost effective writing service for small businesses, and provide copywriting, press releases, web content and newsletters.
 mediabird@btinternet.com
 ☎ 07966 523662

FOR SALE

■ **Little Steps Clothing**
 Children / babies fashion clothing at low prices.
 Littlestepsclothing.co.uk

ELECTRICIANS

■ **Calvin Pennant**
 71 Long Lane, Oxford OX4 3TN
 ☎ 07960 328170

■ **Hawtin Electrical**
 ☎ 07811 401279
 jameshawtin@hawtin-electrical.co.uk
 www.hawtin-electrical.co.uk

CLEANING

■ **Solo Assist Domestic Cleaning Services**
 (including end of tenancy).
 ☎ Marilyn on 01865 308067 or 07990 630332

CARERS

■ **Acquire Care**
 Oxford Science Park, OX4 4GP
 Tel: 01865 338050

COMPUTERS

■ **Friendly Computer Support**
 ☎ 01865 469069 & 07884 318 464
 efaria@gmx.co.uk

FAST/TAKEAWAY FOOD

■ **Chillies Indian Cuisine**
 Dunnock Way, OX4 7EX
 ☎ 01865 775849

■ **Dominos Pizza**
 57 Between Towns Rd, OX4 3LR
 ☎ 01865 777137

■ **Papa John's Pizza**
 80 Rose Hill, Oxford, OX4 4HS
 ☎ 01865 402050

■ **Pizza Hut**
 3 Courtlands Rd, Rose Hill, OX4 4HS
 ☎ 01865 236116

■ **Pizza Polo**
 34 Cowley Rd, Littlemore OX4 4LD
 ☎ 01865 425630

FLORISTS

■ **Joe Austin**
 174 Cowley Road, OX4 6NQ
 ☎ 01865 792037

■ **The Garden**
 99-100 The Market, OX1 3YD
 ☎ 01865 240709

GARDENS

■ **Acorn Nursery**
 Stadhamptom, Oxford
 ☎ 01865 891663

■ **Oxford Garden Centres**
 South Hinksey, OX1 5AR
 ☎ 01865 326066

■ **Pathway Workshop**
 Dunnock Way, OX4 7EF
 ☎ 01865 714111

■ **Wyevale Garden Centre**
 Suthern-By-Pass, Oxford
 ☎ 01865 326066

JOBS

■ **Start your own business**
 with Neals Yard Remedies. For more info call Katie 395960
 kches2001@yahoo.com

HAIRDRESSERS

■ **Hair & Body Shop**
 Ozone Park, Grenoble Rd, OX4 4XP
 ☎ 01865 775817

■ **Beyond Hair & Beauty**
 94 Blackbird Leys Rd, OX4 6HS
 ☎ 01865 778709

HEALTH & BEAUTY

EXPERIENCE LIFE AT YOUR OWN TERMS

Become a consumer or a distributor of RELIV Nutrition Products and become a healthy champion by consuming the products and financially stable by becoming a distributor.
 ☎ Flora, 07901 970363

ZUMBA FITNESS PARTY

Tuesdays, 6.30–7.30pm at The Oxford Academy School, Sandy Lane West. Party Yourself into Shape! Latin inspired dance fitness. £5 per class (5 classes in a row for price of 4!)
 Wiggle & Giggle yourself fit!
 ☎ 07714 248177
 zumbasarahoxford@gmail.com
 www.zumbasarahoxford.com

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 ☎ Jenny, 01865 776777 & 07501 787 123

Bathe in Beauty

The Ozone Health and Fitness Club, Kassam Stadium
 ☎ 01865 335300
 www.batheinbeauty.co.uk

Phyllida Chappell

Holistic Therapist.
 1 Forget-me-not Way, OX4 7ZD
 ☎ 01865 749220
 phyllidachappell@yahoo.com
 www.holistictherapistoxford.co.uk

PLUMBERS

■ **Roy Barrett**, 154 Herschel Cres, Oxford OX4 3TY
 ☎ 01865 242641

■ **Safe Heating & Plumbing**
 37 Druce Way, OX4 6TJ
 ☎ 01865 772303

TAXIS

■ **ABC**
 70A Hollow Way, OX4 2NH
 ☎ 01865 597029

■ **Air Link Oxford**
 24 Vicarage Close, OX4 2NH
 ☎ 01865 434040

■ **Oxford Cars**
 Regus, 7200 The Quorum, OX4 21Z
 ☎ 01865 406070

WINDOW CLEANERS

■ **MRF**
 37 Green Hill, OX4 7UD
 ☎ 01865 599812

■ **Taylor's Windows**
 Greater Leys
 ☎ 01865 773486

■ **Men's Group**
Regular end of day in a relaxed and friendly environment. Learn stress management tools and use this space to talk with other men and organise activities. Wednesdays, 5.30–8.00pm
Cowley Wellbeing Centre
26 Between Towns Road
☎ Duncan / Lanre
07435 760 809
01865 749998

■ **The Listening Centre**
A counselling service for Blackbird Leys and Oxford. Cuddesdon Corner Family Centre.
☎ 01865 794794

■ **Survivors**
Fridays and Saturdays, Blackbird Leys Community Centre.
9.30am–3.30pm. All welcome.

A self-help group of people who use or have used Mental Health Services, working together to get support for, to share experiences and to press for greater awareness of the needs of survivors.
Lunch available for £1.
Pudding 50p. Breakfast from 50p.
Card making. Table top sales.
☎ 07729 581975

■ **Yoga For All**
Experienced Yoga teacher, starting a new class.
☎ Linda Highland on 01865 432570

■ **ZUMBA Fitness Party**
Tuesdays, 6.30–7.30pm at The Oxford Academy School, Sandy Lane West.
Great music & easy to follow.
☎ 07714 248177
zumbasarahoxford@gmail.com
www.zumbasarahoxford.com

NETWORKING

■ **Leys WI**
Meets at the Clockhouse on the first Wednesday of every month at 7.30pm.
☎ To find out more call Rachel Fisher on 07528 433199
www.theleyswi.moonfruit.com

OTHER EVENTS

If you have a service or event you'd like to include, please ring 01865 711756

Diary Dates

Tuesday 30 October
Parish Council Meeting
Jack Argent Room, 7.00pm
For details call 01865 716943

Wednesday 21 November
Leys CDI AGM. See box right

Friday 23 November
Christmas Light Night.
The official Christmas light switch on for the City of Oxford. The event will comprise of processions, late night opening of university museums, galleries and shops and a host of Christmas markets and festive activities.



LEYS COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE (LEYS CDI) AGM

Wednesday 21 November, 6–8 pm
Glow Hall, Blackbird Leys Youth and Community Centre.

Leys CDI Clockhouse Project supports local over-50s through many regular activities at the Clockhouse. Come and help celebrate the work of Leys CDI's Youth and Clockhouse projects over the past year.

Find out how you can get involved, meet friends old and new, and enjoy presentations, singing, and yummy refreshments!
Please tel: 395908 for more details.

HAVE A GOOD EVENING!

LOCAL volunteers are planning some great evening socials at the Clockhouse during the winter months, and they are keen for people on the Leys to come and join them.

The Clockhouse Activity Nights Group or CLANG, has several events coming up at the Clockhouse. On Wednesday 28 November from 7–9pm, East Oxford Archaeology Project will be doing a presentation on the exciting dig currently under way at Minchery Farm, near the Kassam Stadium. There will be a chance to have a go at washing some finds. Light refreshments included and a great relaxing evening is guaranteed. Adults of all ages welcome. Cost £2. The Clockhouse is on Long Ground, in Greater Leys.

A quiz is planned in January and a bingo night in February. Please support this group, make new friends, and chill out after your busy day. For more details call 01865 395908.

Active Women: Regular sessions at Blackbird Leys Leisure Centre

■ **Badminton**
Tuesdays, 7–8pm (family session)
£3.20 per session (adult) and £2.20 per session (child)

Wednesdays, 10.30–11.30am (50+ mixed sessions) £2.50 per session.

Thursdays, 10–11am
starting 18 October
£3.20 per session (non member) £1.20 bonus slice members

Sundays, 4–5pm
(family session)
£3.20 per session (adult) and £2.20 per session (child) £1.20 bonus slice

■ **Netball**
Tuesdays, 8–9pm
The Oxford Academy, Sandy Lane West, Littlemore, OX4 6JZ
£3.50 per session

For more info:
Natasha Mighty 01865 467264
Natasha.Mighty@fusion-lifestyle.com
www.getoxfordshireactive.org

Clockhouse Community Centre

Long Ground, Greater Leys OX4 7FX. ☎ 01865 395908 E: clockhousecdi@btconnect.com

Our sessions are either low-cost or free, and all Leys over 50s are very welcome! Call Sally Meachim on 01865 395908 for dates and details.

■ **NEW! Archaeology club for over 50s**
Help wash and identify some local "finds" with East Oxford Archaeology Project. FREE but you need to book a place. For dates and details call 395908

■ **Over-50s advice**
FREE monthly, confidential, advice on benefits, debt, housing and consumer issues. Outreach session at the Clockhouse, by Agnes Smith Advice Centre. For appointments call 395908.
Next date: Monday 26 November 10am–12pm. (12–12.30pm is 'drop-in' – no appointment needed for this slot.)

■ **Games club for over 50s**
Enjoy playing dominoes, scrabble or a wide

choice of other games. Mondays 5, 19, and 26 November (not 12 November). £1.

■ **Line dancing for over 50s**
Monthly dances. No partner needed, beginners very welcome. Good exercise, great fun! £2.
Next one: Monday 12 November, 1.30–3pm.

■ **Yoga for over 50s**
Seated/standing exercise, and relaxation. Improve your flexibility, feel calm and refreshed. Beginners very welcome. Tuesdays, 10–11am. £2.

■ **Singing for fun for over 50s**
No pressure, or reading music, just relax and enjoy singing in good company. Beginners welcome. Tuesdays, 1.30–3.30pm. (No

session on 30 October.) FREE.

■ **Crafts group for over 50s**
Wednesdays 11am–12.30pm. Bring your knitting, crochet, or sewing. £1

■ **Tai chi for over 50s**
Seated and standing exercise to help you get more supple, and boost your energy. Thursdays 10–11am. £2.

■ **Gardening club**
Monthly meeting of SLIGO (*Senior Leys Independent Gardening Organisation*), first Thursday of each month, at 2.00pm. £2 per meeting. Adults of ALL ages very welcome.
Next meeting: Thursday 1 November. Trees in Oxford city: Talk by local author Sophie

Huxley. SLIGO also has regular work parties in the Clockhouse community garden. Volunteers welcome. Call 395908.

■ **Computer courses for over-50s**
Learn at your own pace. Complete beginners very welcome. Learn how to improve your digital photography skills, or how to make DVDs and calendars. £1 per session. Tel: 395908 for details.

■ **Oxford city council – councillors' surgery**
Drop-in session to meet your local city councillors and discuss any concerns. No appointment needed. First Monday of the month at the Clockhouse, 6.30–7.45pm.
Next session: Monday 5 November.

■ **Evening activities group**
Local people have started a "Clockhouse Activity Nights Group" (CLANG). Join the CLANGers at our friendly evening socials. Meet others, relax, chat, and make new friends. Adults of all ages welcome!
Next meeting: Wednesday 31 November 7–9 pm. Talk by East Oxford Archaeology Project. Do you like watching "Time Team"? Find out about an exciting local excavation (near the Priory Pub by the Kassam Stadium). Have a go at washing some finds – what will you discover? £2.

LOCAL CHURCHES

■ **The Church of the Holy Family**
Eucharist: Every Sunday, 10am, with children's activities.
Timeout: Reflective worship. Most Sundays, 6.30pm.
Church Office Hour: Mondays (except bank holidays) at 6.30–7.30pm. For hall bookings, wedding arrangements and enquiries.
Fellowship for Bible: Study, discussion and prayer. Most Wednesdays at 7.30pm.
☎ Revd Heather Carter 01865 778728
Rev Adam Stevenson, 01865 714163
www.holyfamilybbl.co.uk

■ **Redeem Christian Church of God**
Meets at the Leisure Centre, Pegasus Road.
Sunday Service: 3–6.00pm
Bible study on Fridays: 7–8pm, except last Friday of month.
☎ 07825 679044 and 01865 766056
www.RCCGLighthouse.co.uk

■ **Leys Community Church**
Meets on Sunday, 11am at the Oxford Academy, Beecroft Room (includes special activities for children and young people).
☎ Chipper and Anna Betts, 07985 982804

■ **Sacred Heart Catholic Church**
Balfour Road, Blackbird Leys
Sunday Masses: 9.30am, with music and children's liturgy; and at 6.00pm. ☎ 01865 776903

■ **Chrisco Ministries**
Meets in Jack Agent Hall at the BBL Community Centre.
Sunday Service: 11am–2pm
☎ 07533 845714 and 07737 564677

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Lee scoops Oxfordshire FA award

LEE Fieldwick, 19, from Greater Leys has been awarded with a top Football Charter Standard award. Lee has been awarded the Charter Standard Young Volunteer of the year award.

Lee is currently studying at Oxford Brookes University and is part of the management team at Greater Leys Youth FC.

The award was presented at the Witney Lakes Resort by Arsenal and England Ladies football star Alex Scott

FASCINATING FINDS ON THE LEYS

BY LAURA BROADBENT

VOLUNTEER archaeologists unearthed a 4000-year-old artefact on their second day of digging in Greater Leys.

Diggers found a flint arrowhead which dates all the way back to the Bronze age.

Other items they have found inside the three trenches include small animal bones and pottery

dating back to the 14th century.

Project manager Jane Harrison said: "It's all been pretty exciting, we've got some interesting finds."

The volunteer diggers hope to find out more information about a 12th century priory on the site.

Around 20 people started digging near Kassam Stadium as part of a five week project to

find out more about the history of the area.

The dig was organised by the lottery-funded Archaeology of East Oxford Project (archeox), and will continue over the next five weeks.

■ **For more information about the dig contact Jane Harrison on jane@archeox.ac.uk**

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